

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

Volume #21, March, 2005



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treats 130,000th patient**

UAV predator, SUAV pointer and Mangusta at Talil A/B

**Engineers welcome
replacements at FOB Tiger**

Combating terrorism, serving peace

**Mongolian Trainers
in Afghanistan**

Georgia has moved UN protection forces to Iraq

**CIC - sharing
and discussing
information**



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Cover photo: 17 Port & Maritime Regiment also includes railway specialists who are repairing the railway at Umm Qasr

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The international community should devise a joint mechanism to combat terrorism. They should join forces to eliminate terrorism and should help countries extremely vulnerable to this danger.”

Hamed Karzai,
The President of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan

Editorial

The Transitional National Authority (TNA) met in Baghdad during this month. Whilst Transitional Government has yet to be formed at the time of publication of this Coalition Bulletin, the fact that the TNA had even convened is a significant occasion. This is the first time that a group of national representatives have been freely elected in Iraq.



From the date of the election results until the convening of the TNA, intense negotiations between the leaders of the major parties have been taking place. Such negotiations could be regarded as a normal and healthy democratic activity, and, more significantly, have occurred without major violence.

The success of the democratic process in Afghanistan has been well documented in past issues of the Coalition Bulletin. Now Iraq has also achieved a major milestone in its move towards greater democracy.

This is perhaps an appropriate occasion for the Coalition to reflect on the remarkable progress that has occurred since the beginning of the Global War on Terror.

Under the leadership of the United States, the Coalition removed the Taliban regime and provided security for free elections in Afghanistan. There is now no safe haven anywhere for al-Qaida. Saddam Hussein has been defeated and the Coalition provided security against a determined enemy so that free elections could take place there. In other parts of the region, there are indications of movement towards greater democracy.

One of the enduring features of the democratic experience in Afghanistan and Iraq is the enthusiasm with which the people of those two countries embraced their opportunity to participate in their elections. They demonstrated bravery in resisting violence and intimidation to exercise that right.

There are many who believe that the best way to fight terrorism is by implementing more democracy. If that is so, there can be no doubt that significant steps have been taken in the past few years in Afghanistan and Iraq, despite the challenges that lie ahead.

Neville Reilly

Brigadier-General, New Zealand
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group



Uzbekistan Holds Business Forum on Afghan Reconstruction




A business forum, "Development of Cooperation in Afghan Reconstruction: Promotion of Goods, Services and Advanced Technologies", was held in Tashkent on 1 March.

The Tashkent business forum was the first in a series of such events. The agreement to hold it was reached in March 2004, during an international conference, "Afghanistan: Regional Economic Cooperation between Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan".

The business forum was organized to familiarize representatives from Uzbek state bodies and business people with the processes of Afghan economic reconstruction, the country's main national programmes and ways of financing them and taking part in the reconstruction.

The minister of commerce and senior adviser to the president of Afghanistan, Hedayat [Amin] Arsala, was leading the Afghan delegation, which comprises representatives from the Ministry of Finance, customs and taxation bodies, the Afghan Investment Support Agency, the Chamber of Trade and Industry and other organizations.

Uzbekistan was broadly represented in the forum, too. Its delegation comprised representatives from state bodies and business people.

The chairman of the Uzbek Agency for Foreign Economic Activity, Nasriddin Najimov, said that trade between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan had tripled in recent years, reaching more than 130m dollars in 2004. Rolled metal products, cars and flour have been the main exports. Electricity supplies to Afghanistan have been resumed and ten bridges rebuilt with the help of Uzbek specialists. 



Poland increases its troops in Afghanistan




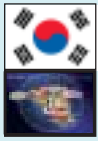
Several thousand Polish troops will be sent to Afghanistan. The increase in the number of the Polish troops approved by the



President of Poland, after the meeting with the Commander in Chief of the Polish Army.

The President has welcomed the proposal of the increase of Polish troops in the framework of ISAF in Afghanistan in 2007.

These troops will continue their activities in Afghanistan under the Command of a Polish Military Officer. 



Korean Hospital treats 130,000th patient



Story by ROK Maj. Kim, Bongyoung
Republic of Korea Hospital Public
Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — For almost two years, the soldiers of the Korean Hospital at Bagram Airfield have been providing medical support to Afghans and members of the Coalition.

After many months of hard work and dedication, the 924th Medical Group of the Korean Hospital reached the achievement of treating 130,000 patients.

This remarkable record by the soldiers and marines of the Republic of Korea, who conduct first-degree treatment as a Level 1 Field Hospital on Bagram Airfield, was reached just 35 months after the unit's first deployment in February 2002.

This achievement shows that the soldiers at the hospital have received a high level of trust from the people of Afghanistan through the unit's kind hearts and high quality of medical service.

On the day of this achievement, the unit delivered a commemorative gift and wished for the quick recovery of a 3-year-old girl, Mina, who was the 130,000th patient.

"I feel so happy to have the honor of treating the 130,000th patient," said ROK Capt. Cho, Soo Hyun, who treated Mina. "I think our achievement is the result of hard efforts that all of our medical staff have put in."

The hard work and dedication of the entire medical staff was apparent later that same day when an 18-month-old girl, Madiha, came to the hospital with 45 percent of her legs covered in third-degree burns.

After discovering that both her parents were unemployed and had no means of providing proper support to their injured daughter, the ROK soldiers decided to provide economic support to



ROK Lt. Col. Yoon, Sangrok, Korea Hospital commander, presents a commemorative gift to Mina. Mina, 3 was the 130,000th patient treated at the Korean hospital on Bagram Airfield.

the family.

The hospital's generosity received heartfelt applause from Coalition members when the commander and other officers delivered their generous gift to Madiha's parents the day she was released from the hospital.

"We felt sorry for her losing both legs. We wanted to help by acting as her legs, and giving her encouragement, self-confidence and hope for life," said ROK Lt. Col. Yoon, Sangrok.

The ROK soldiers plan to continue supporting her with medical equipment and school expenses as she grows into an adult.

To commemorate these achievements, and many others, the ROK medical group held a ceremony Feb. 3.

In attendance at the ceremony were many honored guests including Yoo, Young-bang, South Korean ambassador to Afghanistan, Amin Fatimie, Afghan Minister of Public Health, and Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, Combined Joint Task Force-76 commander.

Through celebrating their achievements, the group has made resolutions to continue to contribute to world peace through the "healing art of love."

During the ceremony, Yoon said that

treating 130,000 patients proves their great contribution to the settlement of peace in Afghanistan.


"We will continue to provide the highest quality of medical services to the people of Afghanistan and the Coalition with a spirit of kindness and sacrifice," he said.

The hospital staff also exchanged letters of appreciation with Olson, and the commanders of both the 325th Combat Support Hospital and the Egyptian hospital on Bagram Airfield in recognition of the support they have provided to the Korean hospital.

The group's achievement truly displays the excellence of the ROK armed forces, said Yoon.

"This group of soldiers has contributed greatly to creating a favorable impression of the Korean soldiers among the Afghan people," he said.

The work being done by the ROK soldiers is directly related to the Coalition mission, said Olson.

"The contribution of bringing health to 130,000 people is significant," he said. "130,000 people treated is 130,000 lives that have been changed because of these soldiers." 



UAV predator, SUAV pointer and Mangusta at Talil A/B



Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) is nowadays a must. In this context the Italian Government tasked Air Force to deploy four UAVs PREDATOR (Unmanned Air Vehicles) to Iraq.

The UAVs are equipped with advanced sensors to deliver imagery intelligence to the Land Component Commander providing military and security forces real-time protection.

The UAVs provide enhanced situational awareness as well as increased target acquisition capability achieving the objective of reducing soldiers exposure in high-risk situations.

Since 15th Jan 2005 the Italian UAV Squadron is operating from Tallil Airbase, highlighting the key role of UAVs in maintaining control of the assigned AOR by monitoring any suspect movement.

UAVs have proven to be a force multiplier in the operations, reducing or eliminating unwanted enemy contact.



Beside the UAV also SUAVs (Small Unmanned Air Vehicles) have been deployed in support of ground operations. Notwithstanding the smaller size and restricted range of action, also this ISTAR assets (POINTER) have proven to be effective.

This SUAV system is being employed in theatre to support route reconnaissance, intelligence preparation of the battlefield, battle damage assessment, direct action, force protection, convoy protection, obstacle detection, surveillance and special reconnaissance. Italy is also

deploying Army helicopters to Tallil. Three Mangusta (Mongoose) A129 will arrive in Iraq by the end of February.

The main task assigned to Mangusta is to provide a wide range defence for the troops moving on ground. The Mangusta A 129 is capable of a quick reaction and its endurance and fire power guarantee full coverage. The four-blade main rotor is mounted on the top center of the cabin, while weapon-carrying wings are short, stubby, and mid-mounted on the fuselage. The fuselage is slender and tapered to the rear, with fixed



landing gear.

The tandem cockpit is glassed-in and flat-plated, and tapered from the cockpit to the blunted nose. The A129 was successfully employed in Somalia where it proved highly reliable and extremely flexible.



World Need To Unite To Fight Terror

The world has now realized that terrorism is the enemy of all people, and a menace to international peace and development. That is why the international community is becoming more determined to fight and wipe out terrorism. To get rid of this catastrophic tragedy, all countries should join forces and do their utmost to fight and wipe out international terrorism. The International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security in Madrid also stressed that the international community should act in unison to combat this calamitous catastrophe. President Hamed Karzai also delivered a speech at this summit. He once again stressed the need for combating this disastrous phenomenon, and said: **“The international community should devise a joint mechanism to combat terrorism. They should join forces to eliminate terrorism and should help countries extremely vulnerable to this danger.”** All participants in the Madrid summit stressed that all the world’s countries should join forces to speed up the fight against terror, which is a daunting obstacle to global peace and development. Hamed Karzai, the president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, also stressed the importance of a joint campaign against terrorism and said: **“Our people have demonstrated to the world that the ideology behind terrorism is wrong. Terrorism divides families, nations and countries. Afghanistan has proved that joint international efforts to fight terrorism bear optimal results.”** That is why what is required is that all countries, whether or not they are vulnerable to the threat of terrorism, should act together and join forces to combat this global catastrophe.



CIC - sharing and discussing information



Colonel Evelio Otero Jr. has an impressive education as a graduate from the US Air Force War College and a variety of educational degrees to a vast military career that spans over 20 years. He has a concentration in intelligence and international assignments with the Air Force that has brought him to his current position as the Chief of the Coalition Intelligence Center at US Central Command Coalition Village. Our Coalition Public Affairs Team had a chance to catch up with him this week for an introspective interview with a man that is charting the course of multinational intelligence.

- What is the Coalition Intelligence Center's mission?

- We were established in 2002 at the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. Under J2 we were established for the purpose of facilitating and sharing of intelligence. In the beginning there was some operational tactical intelligence that we shared with our coalition members and that information was limited to just Afghanistan. But as the mission expanded into Iraq, we also had to expand our purpose of sharing and discussing information while establishing analytical teams to address specific questions from both the Coalition and the US. Our Center is the forum where most of those discussions take place.

How do you select the group members? Who is part of the Coalition Intelligence Center (CIC)?

- The Coalition countries are all invited to have membership in the Intelligence Center. We put in prospective the nation's involvement with operations. Not every country has an intelligence interest and not every country has an intelligence officer assigned to CENTCOM. Those that do have an intelligence officer assigned at CENTCOM will participate with us on a daily basis. Those that do not have an intelligence officer, but do have intelligence interests, usually go through their country's Senior National Representative (SNR) or through the operations officer consult with us and discuss with us issues of common interest.

- How exactly does your group work?

- The process is a very convenient process for everybody. Let's take the US side as an example: if the joint intelligence center or any agency or any directorate within Central Command have an issue that has an intelligence value associated with it, they come to us. If it is information that needs to be discussed or analyzed and they would like the Coalition perspective, we invite the Coalition countries to volunteer. Those that have an interest in the question, will volunteer and sit around and discuss it for however long they need to decide on that issue. It could take a week or a month, even two months. For however long it takes.

The member countries will go back to the intelligence agencies of their countries to discuss the question. At certain times they come back to the table here at the CIC, they present what the Intelligence Center's view is, and then they put together the assessment, so it is a true Coalition assessment. One that answers an intelligence question. Now, I said as an example, that the US can initiate that question, but this can also be done by a Coalition country, if they have a question of national interest that they would like to utilize the advantages of the CIC, they can do that. Through their SNR's, or representatives, they can summon the CIC to answer a specific question of interest.

- Where do you get the information from? What are your sources?

- The CIC is divided into several cells. One cell covers the Afghanistan theater, we currently have three analysts assigned there. We also have the Iraqi theater cell where we have three analysts assigned as well.

Another intelligence area, within the CIC, is dedicated to exploiting open source material. This cell is made up of ten analysts and they scan open source media usually related to the AOR, trying to identify matters of interests to the coalition, as far as perceptions, sensitivities, and what is happening in relation to the Global War On Terror (GWOT).

So we have addressed GWOT properly and we can have accurate information on it. And last, but not least the Coalition Analysis Cell, a group of Coalition analysts performing mid and long term assessment in support of GWOT.

- Do you have special relationships with certain Coalition Countries or do you deal with them equally?

- We deal with all the countries with equal concern.

We share equally with everybody, the best we can, we make it possible, we try to appeal to the analysts who draft the initial intelligence, to make it releasable to everybody and that's why we have a caveat that limits the information to specific operations or theaters of operations.

For instance, one for the Coalition in Afghanistan and one for the Coalition in Iraq. So, we encourage that all the intelligence ought to have a specific caveat and as releasable to everybody as possible.

- Can we talk about the evolution of information sharing and intelligence exchange within the Coalition since 2002? Has this better co-operation between the countries contributed to a stronger Coalition?


- The answer to all these questions is YES. The relationship, the sharing of

intelligence, the strength of the Coalition certainly have improved in great measure due to the intelligence cooperation, not just the operational and political, but also the intelligence relationship. So, indeed we have learned the experience has been a marvelous one for the past three years in the intelligence world. The process of learning how we can make it easier to work with the Coalition and share more with our Coalition friends is by far more than at the beginning of OEF. That was when the Coalition was beginning to be formed and all of the countries were starting to understand the threat. The clear understanding of the terrorist threat to all of the countries was the cornerstone that made it much easier to share intelligence and be more open. So the answer is yes, we have gotten a lot better and we will continue to get better. We have learned that in certain areas of intelligence, there's room for more openness and perhaps we were not that way before. So, we will be more open in the future. And we are looking forward to that.

- Can you say that the sharing of intelligence brought the Coalition together?

- Of course, there is no question that the intelligence segment not only affects the soldier in Iraq and in Afghanistan, but also affects citizens of all the Coalition countries and their respective cities and capital cities. It is part of protecting and preventing the spread of terror throughout the whole world and here we have done that. We have gotten very close and we not only deal within the military in an operational way with what is happening in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also deal with helping prevent terrorism in the cities and the capitals where terrorism can be a threat.

- Could you say in the end that the cooperation in this field has enhanced the trust among the countries?

- It surely has for all of us. They go beyond the wonderful personalities and friends that we have become all the intelligence professionals who are working in the Coalition. We've become personal friends in many cases, but also on the diplomatic and political side. Our countries have been sharing intelligence and have been saving lives and all of the hard work has only made us closer. 



Coalition Analysis Cell

“The endeavour of the CAC is to support USCENTCOM, Cell member countries, and other US Agencies in their continued fight against global terrorism. This is achieved through the provision of the above services in the long term and without a regionally limited perspective.”

The Coalition Analysis Cell (CAC) is a multi-national working group, which is primarily responsible for the evaluation and analysis of the US HUMINT reports received from various Joint Task Forces (JTFs).

The group offers also a thriving environment for sharing information and intelligence on multi-lateral basis.

Since its establishment in March of 2002, the Cell has conducted independent research and analysis of terrorist organizations, individuals and their methods for recruiting, training, communications, travelling, financing, planning and executing their activities.

The Cell has released numerous evaluations, analysis products, and briefings for use by the participating member nations and US Agencies.

In addition to its analytical functions, the CAC acts as a focal point for coordination between the JTFs and the CAC member countries.

The CAC analysts are assigned on a full-time basis and supported by one US officer and four contractors.

Membership to the CAC is by invitation and is based on the assessed needs and capabilities of the participating countries.

The main goal of the CAC is not to provide daily warnings or short term assessments, but rather to extract and provide intelligence and knowledge from tactical reporting.

This approach is beneficial to all the members in dealing in a pro-active way with terrorist threats.

To accomplish its main goal the CAC has established and maintains an independent database. Additionally, open source material is used to enhance analytical efforts of the team.

Based on all the available information the analysts prepare analysis and or evaluations on the agreed projects. They may also work on their own projects.


Each project produced is evaluated by all CAC country members. The evaluations, when received, allow the CAC team to focus its activity on specific topics requested by the intelligence agencies of each country.

This feedback is extremely important to the continued improvement of the CAC products.

Although results of their efforts have been well received, it welcomes more aggressive participation by member countries.

In the near term the CAC is in the process of upgrading its analytical software capabilities. This enhancement will allow for more efficient retrieval and more sophisticated data manipulation.

From its humble beginnings the CAC has risen to its current status as a key player in the Global War on Terror.

As we move forward the CAC strives to fully utilize its potential, through the increased sharing of intelligence and analytical expertise in support of Coalition efforts to counter and eliminate the threat of ongoing terrorist activities. 



Combating terrorism, serving peace



Story by capt. Carol FLOREA
2nd Infantry Battalion
"Calugareni" PIO
Camp Mittica, Iraq

On 9th of February 2005, the transfer of authority ceremony was held in Camp Mittica between 812th Infantry Battalion "Carpathians Hawks" and newly arrived 2nd Infantry Battalion "Calugareni" from Bucharest. 2nd Infantry Battalion "Calugareni" has a lot of experience in Peace Support


Operations, being involved in UNAVEM III (august 1995-april 1996)-the first deployment of a Romanian combat unit abroad since the end of world War II and MONUA (December 1998-august 1999) operations in Angola. As part of Romanian Task Force "Saint George" this unit participated in the NATO -led operation ALBA in Albania in 1997 under the operational control of the Italian "Friuli" Brigade. Part of the Strategic Reserve Forces starting with 1st of January 2002, the unit

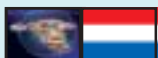
participated in the annual operational rehearsals "Dynamic Response" (2002 in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 2003 in Kosovo) and "Determined Commitment" (2004 in Bosnia-Herzegovina). Antica Babilonia" is the fourth international operation conducted by Romanian 2nd Infantry Battalion "Calugareni".

Starting with 10th of February, Romanian 2nd Infantry Battalion "Calugareni" was involved in several CIMIC operations distributing furniture, equipment and

appliances to 4 primary and secondary schools located in Suq ash Shuyukh 'i Al-Ukaika. The materials worthing aprox. 10.000 USD were donated by the Italian Foreign Ministry. A few days later, a primary school in Al-Chabaish received furniture and teaching equipment worthing aprox. 3000 USD. The materials were also donated by the Italian Foreign Ministry.

The directors of the schools which received the donations and representatives of the local population expressed their gratitude towards the Multinational Forces which conduct every effort to improve the life of Iraqi citizens.

In the following weeks, Romanian forces will be involved in more CIMIC operations in order to provide humanitarian aids to Iraqi civilian population and to participate in reconstruction activities (power supply, health service, sewage, etc) aiming to create a peaceful and stable environment in Dhi Qar province. 




The Netherlands expands military presence in Afghanistan



The Dutch government has decided to send 250 troops, mostly special forces, to Afghanistan to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom. Defense minister Henk Kamp stated that the mission will last one year and includes four Chinook transport helicopters, 165 special forces and 85 helicopter staff personnel.

With this new contribution to the Operation Enduring Freedom, the Netherlands expands its presence in Afghanistan. At present 139 military personnel are stationed in the province of Baghlan as a Provincial Reconstruction Team under NATO's International Security Assistance Force. Four F-16 fighters are currently replacing six Dutch Apache helicopters with 100 staff personnel. The F16's will initially operate from Kabul Airbase and are deployed under ISAF.

The Dutch government stated in a letter to parliament that with the prolonged and new presence it hopes to further support the positive development of security and stability in Afghanistan. 



Building an army for Afghanistan



One soldier is satisfied, while another isn't so pleased with the way things have gone for him in western Afghanistan. Both have concerns, mainly over money, career paths and family support. Yet each is proud to wear the uniform and appreciate the respect it engenders in their countrymen.

"I want to serve my country," said Pvt. Abdul Latif, who has been struggling with his new job.

The two men — Samiullah, a sergeant who uses only one name, and Latif — don't work for Uncle Sam. Rather, they are part of a grand undertaking known as the Afghanistan National Army. It's a work in progress, one that will pay huge dividends if Afghanistan and its allies — most notably the United States — can pull it off.

"There are many problems in the ANA," said Afghan army Brig. Gen. Fazil Ahmad Sayar, the chief of staff of the 207th Corps based in Herat, "but we hope [it] will get better in the future." While often compared to its Iraqi army counterpart, the smaller Afghan force has taken tremendous strides in the past three years, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

The Afghan army still has some distance to cover, but the road of apprenticeship doesn't appear to be as long or as problematic, providing the United States and its allies continue the effort, dubbed Task Force Phoenix.

Iraqis "are not bred warriors like these guys," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Richard

Moorhead, the task force commander. Afghans "have the will to fight," he added, "and that's what makes them so good."

Or, so dangerous, if the armed Afghan is fighting against coalition forces.

Afghan fighters "won't hesitate to engage us," said Capt. Mike Berdy, a 25th Infantry Division company commander based near the Pakistan border. But after two decades of fighting, many in Afghanistan seem war-weary, based on conversations with Afghans in the south, east and west.

"War has destroyed my country," said Samiullah, 18, a platoon sergeant with the 207th Corps, headquartered in Herat.

"The Afghan people are happy," Khoshhal Murad, a United Nations interpreter in Kabul, said. "We have a new government, and a new army."

That new army now has roughly 18,000 combat soldiers, according to Moorhead. More than 3,000 Afghans are in a three-step, 20-week training regimen that concludes with a unit assignment. By September 2007, Afghan troop strength should reach the goal of 45,000.

Launched in June 2003, the task force started slowly, focused for the first year primarily on the infantry. Recruits were tested and evaluated to determine if they were junior enlisted, senior enlisted or officer material. Additionally, U.S., French and British trainers kept an eye out for recruits who would one day take over as instructors.

About a year ago, the task force turned over basic-training duties to those handpicked candidates. Moorhead said the plan is to do the same this April with the command and staff school, which the French army oversees. Later this year, the British will hand their clipboards to Afghan instructors chosen to conduct the senior noncommissioned officer school.

Other countries assisting are Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Mongolia, New Zealand and Romania.

While the focus has been on combat forces, incrementally the coalition has been building up the support sector — such as training, logistics and communications — and it has been filling billets within the Afghanistan Ministry of Defense. By 2007, there will be about 3,000 troops and civilians assigned to the ministry and roughly 21,000 to 22,000 on the support side.

In addition, various commands and agencies are being created, including a new military academy that will open its doors next month to 120 cadets.

"It's growing gradually," Moorhead said, "but it's growing with good people."

The ANA consists of five corps. The first was the 201st based in Kabul, which became fully staffed in May. In September, four regional corps came on line in Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat. Other components are falling into place.

Two months ago, the Afghans, with coalition input, drafted a military justice code.

"This army has to be sustainable because one of these days we will leave," Moorhead said.

Sayar, the chief of staff for the Herat Corps, is one of the Afghan soldiers helping to make that happen. Through an interpreter, he ticked off a list of issues his staff is addressing, from pay and leave to supply and medicine.

But the most significant thing Afghan military leaders can do, he said, is "to keep the promises made to recruits." Such talk might be enough to keep Latif in the fold.

Based in Herat, Latif wants to serve, but said his \$160-a-month salary is barely enough to support his wife and six kids. A seasoned fighter, the 32-year-old driver/mechanic is weighing his options. He may join the quick reaction force — and nearly double his salary — or he may quit, go home to Kabul and open his own garage.

If the army offered adequate family housing and more money, said Latif, who fought the Taliban as a member of the Northern Alliance, "I would stay forever."

Afghan National Army at a glance :

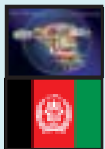
Current troop strength: 21,000;

Troop strength in 2007: 45,000;

Initial training: 20 weeks (basic and specialty training);

Basic pay: \$70 (for a private); \$900 (for a general)

Future: Will develop an air force to move troops around the country.



Engineers welcome replacements at FOB Tiger



Story and photos by Spc. Dijon Rolle
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE
TIGER, Afghanistan — Several
engineer units are preparing to redeploy
as Soldiers from Alaska's 864th Engineer
Battalion hit the ground in southern
Afghanistan.

The Soldiers at Forward Operating
Base Tiger are working together to make
the transition as seamless as possible.
For the past year, engineers here have
devoted their skills to the Tarin Kowt road
construction project and ongoing base
improvements.

The 864th is the first group of
replacements to arrive here. The battalion
is replacing elements from the 528th, 204th
and 926th engineer battalions, and their
primary mission will be to continue to work
on the road and improve Forward
Operating Base Ripley.

"We want to complete the road this
year, and maintain security and safety, and
continue to facilitate the extension of
goodwill between the U.S. Army and the
Afghan government and its people," said
Capt. Matthew Templeman, commander of
Company C, 864th Eng. Bn.

The base of operations for the new
engineers is FOB Tiger, which was
originally built as a temporary base camp to
house and support engineers working on
the road project. Thanks to a lot of hard
work and a collective effort, the base is now
twice its original size and contains shower
and laundry facilities, a chow hall and a
Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center.

"We were the first ones here," said
Sgt. Scott Szabo, Co. B, 204th Eng. Bn.
"Everything was built from the ground up.
Every nut and bolt, every piece of wood was
loaded up and moved out here from
(Kandahar Airfield). It wasn't easy, but
we're proud of the work we've done to get
to this point," said Szabo.

The 864th arrived in mid-January and
are slowly rotating out to the FOB from
Kandahar Airfield. Many have already
begun working on the road.

"We're just trying to show them the
ropes," said Sgt. Benjamin Reed,
Headquarters and Support Company, 528th
Eng. Bn., land surveyor.

"We've already had the chance to
work out most of the bugs. We can pass on
everything we've learned," he said.
Reed is one of several engineers working
with incoming 864th Soldiers.



Sgt. Benjamin Reed, HSC, 528th Eng. Bn.,
and Spc. Katherine Edwards, Co. C, 864th
Eng. Bn., survey a section of the Tarin Kowt
road construction project at FOB Tiger

"So far, everything has been going
pretty smooth," said Spc. William Nunn,
a Co. C, 864th Eng. Bn., heavy equipment
operator. I had the chance to actually get
out on the road and work, get some
operating time," he said.

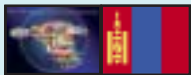
As the current engineers prepare to
redeploy, they are leaving behind a few
words of wisdom for their replacements.
"The main thing is safety," said Sgt. 1st
Class Colvin Adams, a construction
equipment operator supervisor for Co. B,
926th Eng. Bn.

"You have to watch your buddy
and be aware of what you're doing at all
times, especially around this heavy
equipment. An accident can happen at
anytime," he said. The 864th Eng. Bn. is
an active-duty unit from Fort Richardson,
Alaska. This is their first major
deployment since Operation Desert
Storm.

The best words of advice the
engineers bestowed upon their
replacements during their transition –
"Do your job the best you can," said Sgt.
Sir Johnson, a truck driver with Co. C,
528th Eng. Bn. "Take care of business."

A Soldier from 926th Eng. Bn. passes tips to Spc. Tania Morris (right), Co. C, 864th Eng. Bn.,
a heavy equipment operator, during the two units' transition at FOB Tiger





Mongolian Trainers in Afghanistan



Maj Chinzorig Byambaa
Mongolian Liaison officer

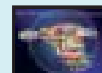
The events of September 11 saw over 80 nations suffer losses. The Government of Mongolia expressed its political concern at the loss of over 2950 lives. The Mongolian Government quickly offered its support to the Global War on Terror. Mongolia initially offered training opportunities for coalition forces and the over flight permission for the coalition air movement.

In March 2003, Mongolia joined the Coalition by deploying an infantry company to Iraq. These soldiers conducted stability and security operations. This very important mission allowed the Mongolian Military to train and participate in UN Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Operations.

In October 2003, Mongolia joined in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) by providing training to the Afghan National Army. Currently, the Mongolian Military has deployed Howitzer and Mortar training teams, as well as an Artillery Maintenance team. These experienced trainers provide technical and operational training to the artillery core cadre for the Afghan National Army. The Mongolian Mobile Training Teams conduct specialized training on D-30 howitzers and various mortars. To date, they have trained over 50 officers, 100 non-commissioned officers and 300 soldiers. Of significant note, the Mongolian trainers have graduated 20 D-30 gun instructors who will become the cadre for training the next class of future Afghan artillery specialists. Mongolia is seeking additional opportunities to extend Mobile Training Teams for future assistance in training Afghan National Army. [CB](#)



Georgia has moved UN protection forces to Iraq



On the 3rd of March Georgia has accomplished a deployment of its 550 men unit to the theatre. For the next six months period of time this force is assigned to provide protection to the United Nations Assistance Mission personnel operating in Iraq.

The structure of force is based on light infantry battalion model to include staff and service support elements.

Prior to the deployment Georgian soldiers participated in specialized training program focused on antiterrorism activities. With the assistance of the US military instructors the unit has gained an essential experience and skills required for successful accomplishment of the mission.

Georgian force offer is designed to contribute to the security and stability in Iraq. Since August 2003, when the first 70 servicemen arrived to support the Operation Iraqi Freedom, Georgia has being increased its presence up to 159 men in April 2004, and then to 300 men in November 2004. With the recent deployment the number of Georgian boots on the ground increased up to 850 men.

The participation in the Coalition against global terrorism remains an utmost priority for the Georgian Foreign policy. Such participation has discovered new prospects for the international cooperation aiming to make the world more secure and more stable. [CB](#)



ISAF Snapshots



SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO ISAF


The Kingdom of Spain joint the ENDURING FREEDOM initiative from the starting point as a sign of the commitment on the global fight against Terrorism and for sharing the international effort to consolidate peace and stability all around the world.

Presently and under the framework of ISAF, Spain is contributing to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM with two (2) contingents. A Spanish Army unit and a portion of the Spanish Air Force detachment are deployed in KABUL (AFGHANISTAN), while the main body of the SP AF contingent is deployed in MANAS (KYRGYZISTAN).

The capabilities and facilities provided in KABUL are the following: four (4) medium helicopters for general transport and MEDEVAC; a ROLE 2-level medical support; a Counter Intelligence team; 2 Air Cargo & Movement parties. The personnel involved in KABUL is three hundred and thirty (295 Army + 35 Air Force) personnel.

On the other hand, the capabilities and facilities provided in MANAS are only related to Air Movement issues and the personnel deployed is fifty six (56 Air Force). Finally, a five-person team is deployed to USCENTCOM and a two-person team to MCC (BAHREIN).

Furthermore on 22 February 2005, the Spanish Government has decided to increase the Spanish presence in AFGHANISTAN. From now on, Spain will share responsibilities with Italy in the new created FSB (Forward Support Base) located at HERAT (HERAT province) and will take control of a PRT in QALA-I-NAW (BAGDHIS province).

Nowadays spanish recce teams are ready to conduct a site survey to both locations (Herat and Qala-i-Naw) in order to identify further needs to the already scheduled deployment of forces (up to 540 personnel). Moreover, Spain Air Force is now in the process to increase the number of planes in the theatre to three transport planes which is to be confirmed. 



Herat governor discusses cooperation with Italian PRT

The governor of Herat, Sayed Mohammad Khaikhwah, received Col Alto, the commander of Italian PRT, and the delegation accompanying him.


Bakhtar Information Agency reports that first the Italian PRT commander briefed the governor about their plans and activities in Herat Province.

The head of the delegation went on to say that the Italian PRT officials would assume the activities of the US PRT in Herat Province in the next two weeks. He said that the Italian government would officially take over the responsibility of US PRT in Herat Province on 1 April 2005.

The delegation added that all the construction projects would be discussed with the government officials and necessary actions would be taken based on the needs and priorities introduced by the government departments.



In turn, the esteemed governor of Herat said: I hope the government of Italy is ready to help us in the reconstruction of the infrastructure projects in this province. There is a dire need for reconstruction of roads, schools and irrigation systems, and provision of assistance in many other fields.

At the end, the governor of Herat mentioned a number of projects, which are considered as priority projects and called on the delegation to pay close attention to them. The Italian delegation hailed the recommendations by the governor and expressed full cooperation. 



Defense Minister Hails Japan's 28 Million Dollars For Disarmament Program

The Japanese ambassador to Afghanistan and the head of the UNDP signed an agreement on cooperation worth 28 million dollars to accelerate implementation of the DDR programme. The agreement was signed by the Japanese ambassador to Afghanistan and Mrs. Amira Ahad, representative of the UNDP in Afghanistan, at the Japanese embassy in Kabul. National Defense Minister General Abdorrahim Wardak, who is in charge of the Afghan New Beginnings Programme, attended the ceremony along with a number of Afghan and foreign journalists.

Speaking about the contract, the Japanese ambassador said: Japan has cooperated in implementing the New Beginnings Programme from the very first days of this disarmament programme. Japan provides 60 percent of the budget for the Afghan New Beginnings Programme.

Commenting on this, General Abdorrahim Wardak said: Implementation of the disarmament programme is vital for the people of Afghanistan. The disarmament programme was launched with the cooperation of the National Defense Ministry, the UNDP in Afghanistan and with the financial support of Japan and a number of other countries on October 2003. Ninety percent of heavy artillery has so far been collected in Afghanistan. Over 42,000 people have joined the disarmament programme, and 35,500 have returned to civilian life. Japan has donated 63 million dollars to the disarmament programme over the past two years. With donation of 28 million dollars, the total amount of Japanese assistance for the disarmament programme reaches 91 million dollars. 